

REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the Office Action dated September 24, 2002.

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-32 are rejected. Claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32 have been amended for clarification. Claims 10, 20 and 30 have been canceled. Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29, 31 and 32 remain pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

The present invention provides a method, system, and computer readable medium for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured. The method, system, and computer readable medium comprise creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button and displaying at least a portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport.

35 USC §112 Rejections

Claims 10, 20 and 30-32

The Examiner states:

Claims 10, 20 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claims 10, 20 and 30 which are dependent on claims 1, 11, and 21 respectively, the term "minimize all button" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Because of this rejection, claims 10, 20 and 30 have not been considered over the prior art.

As per claims 31 and 32, the term “a portion of the at least one application window” in lines 8 and 15 should be changed to –the portion of the at least one application window--

Regarding claims 10, 20 and 30, Applicant asserts that the term “minimize all button” is defined in the specification page 9, line 20 – 23:

A related “minimize all” button is preferably located in the title bar of the viewports and allows the user to reduce all application viewports on the desktop to an icon in the taskbar. A subsequent mouse click of the icon, makes all the application viewports visible again.

Applicant asserts that the term “minimize all”, for the purposes of this patent application is a shortened representation of the term “minimize all viewports” whereby the activation of the minimize all button, “minimizes” all active viewports (i.e. reduces the viewports to a single icon in the computer taskbar.). Applicant asserts that a computer programmer of ordinary skill in the art readily understands that the term “minimize”, as it relates to a desktop window, means reducing the desktop window to an icon in the taskbar. Applicant therefore asserts that a computer programmer of ordinary skill in the art would be reasonably apprised of the scope of the inventive term “minimize all button” based on the above referenced portion of the specification (i.e. A related “minimize all” button... allows the user to reduce all application viewports on the desktop to an icon in the taskbar...).

Regarding claims 31 and 32, Applicant asserts that these claims have been amended for clarification thereby obviating the Examiner’s above referenced 35 USC §112 rejection. Specifically, in claims 31 and 32 the term “a portion of the at least one application window” has been changed to “the portion of the at least one application window”.

35 USC §102 Rejections

Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29 and 31 and 32

For ease of review, independent claims 1, 11 and 21 are reproduced herein below:

1. A method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;
- b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and
- c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

11. A system for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising:

- means for creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;
- means for associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and
- means for displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

21. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, the program instructions comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;
- b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and
- c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

31. A method for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured, comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button; and
- b) displaying the portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport.

32. A system for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured, comprising:

means for creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button; and
means for displaying the portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport.

The Examiner states:

As per claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Jaaskelainen, Jr. (US #6,002,397).

As per independent claim 1, Jaaskelainen, Jr. teaches a method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows (fig. 2A; from col. 4, lines 64-67 through col. 5, lines 1-12), comprising the steps of:

creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction (window hatch 110; fig. 2B; col. 5, lines 12-27 and lines 35-41);

associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information (fig. 2B; col. 5, lines 26-35).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection. The present invention provides a method, system, and computer readable medium for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured. The present invention has been amended to recite the steps of creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction *wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button* and displaying at least a portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport.

The Examiner asserts that Jaaskelainen anticipates the present invention.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Jaaskelainen discloses a window hatch. The window hatch is created in a displayed window. Once the hatch is created, a portion of the displayed window delimited by the hatch disappears, revealing the window underneath. Multiple invocations of the hatch operation bore through lower, underlying windows until the desired window is reached. Thus, portions of the desired underlying window show through the window hatch, while the top window remains in view. The window hatch can be adjusted in size and shape. The underlying window can be repositioned so that the desired information shows through the hatch. Various navigation and information cues are available to assist the user in understanding the relationship of the various windows and correctly positioning the window hatch.

Although various navigation and information cues are disclosed in Jaaskelainen to assist the user in understanding the relationship of the various windows and correctly positioning the window hatch (see Jaaskelainen col. 11 lines 8-33 and col. 13 line 30 – col. 15 line 6), Jaaskelainen does not disclose the implementation of a minimize all button as recited in the present invention. The minimize all button allows the user to reduce all viewports on the desktop to an icon in the taskbar with a single user interaction (e.g. a mouse click).

Consequently, since Jaaskelainen does not disclose the implementation of a minimize all button, as recited in the present invention, Applicant asserts that the recited invention of independent claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32 is clearly different from the Jaaskelainen reference. Therefore, claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32 are allowable over the Jaaskelainen reference.

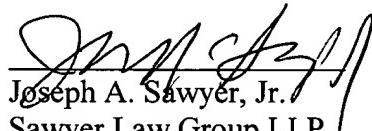
Claims 2-9, 12-19, and 22-29

Since claims 2-9, 12-19, and 22-29 are respectively dependent on claims 1, 11 and 21, the above-articulated arguments related to claims 1, 11 and 21 apply with equal force to claims 2-9, 12-19, and 22-29. Accordingly, claims 2-9, 12-19, and 22-29 are allowable over the cited references.

Attached hereto and captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment.

Accordingly, Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising the steps of:
 - a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;
 - b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and
 - c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

Cancel claim 10.

11. (Amended) A system for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising:
means for creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;

means for associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and

means for displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

Cancel claim 20.

21. (Amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, the program instructions comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button;
- b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and
- c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

Cancel claim 30.

31. (Amended) A method for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured, comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button; and
- b) displaying [at least a] the portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport.

32. (Amended) A system for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured, comprising:

- means for creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button; and
- means for displaying [at least a] the portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport.